

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 9, 2001

LB 75

have such an oversupply in this country. Partly what happens when we have an oversupply is we also have good cheap food, the cheapest food in the world; but we still need a market for our products. I hear will the farmers benefit that? They will. And I hear that if it's just a small area around an ethanol plant that would benefit, if the corn was all used by an ethanol plant within a 50-mile radius, that would be corn that's not available to export to China or Mexico or wherever it might be. So then the other areas would have a chance to fill that market. So it does not just affect the area right around the ethanol plants, but it does the whole state. Another point that I keep hearing all the time that it's a product that people don't want. Now my math might be kind of bad, but if I put this... started writing down some figures here, I heard this morning that ethanol is being, the blend is used in 35 percent of the automobiles. Thirty-five percent of three different products, you have a premium, you have an 87 octane, an 89 octane, 35 percent of three products makes me say it's the product of choice. Then you'd want to top that off with there's about 35 percent of the stations don't even offer it. So if they would offer it, it would raise it somewhat over the 35 percent so to me it is a product of choice. The place where I buy my gasoline I consistently stopped in last year and asked them what they could price the blend, the ethanol blended fuel at compared to the regular. And just about all the time up until recently they could offer it for a penny or two pennies less, and they always did that. And at that time...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR KREMER: ...60 percent of the people were using ethanol blend. Now that to me says that it's a product of choice, that people do want to use it. The problem is that we have a lot of stations that don't offer it. How many businesses can survive if your competitor priced your product for you or even let you offer it? So that's what we want. We want it to be offered at all stations. Another thing we talked about or we hear that the big ethanol plants are the ones making the money. Who's the counterpart to that? We have many ethanol plants in Nebraska that hire a lot of employees, they increase our tax base. The counterpart of that is a refinery and we don't have any